

# Memorandum

**TO:** ADOT SE RTP TAC

**FROM:** Cambridge Systematics Consultant Team

**DATE:** August 15, 2005

**RE:** Technical Advisory Committee - Meeting No. 2 Summary

---

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Southeast Arizona Regional Transportation Profile (RTP) held its second meeting on June 28, 2005, at Cochise College, 1025 State Route 90, in Benson, Arizona.

Dianne Kresich, ADOT project manager for the SE RTP, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that ADOT is looking at needs and deficiencies of the entire highway system in Southeast Arizona. She described how the Southeast Arizona RTP study is establishing guidelines for the 11 additional RTPs that will be completed throughout Arizona.

Stephen Decker of Cambridge Systematics explained that the purpose of the meeting was to bring the TAC up to date on the status of the RTP guidelines; discuss existing conditions, needs and deficiencies; and discuss the public involvement effort. Mr. Decker provided a short review of the RTP guidelines and the process of using resources such as HPMS data, HERS-ST AZ and other sources of information to complete the RTP tasks. Mr. Decker and other study team members presented the work to date on existing conditions, information on how the data on needs and deficiencies will be analyzed, and the planned stakeholder and public outreach activities.

Following the presentation, attendees were invited to ask questions and provide input, particularly on groups to include in the stakeholder and public outreach efforts. TAC members asked if the guidelines were available to participants. The document is posted on the ADOT Web site and working papers will also be posted there.

TAC members asked about the larger RTP process and its relationship to the SE RTP, including where the other 11 RTPs are located and how the Interstate 10 corridor will be handled. The study team responded that the RTPs would build on other efforts, such as the I-10 and I-19 corridor studies. The RTPs will be completed in four years and the study for Southeast Arizona has an 18-month schedule, which is on track. The state was broken into 12 areas for the RTPs because it is manageable to do four each year. The RTPs will be more consistent in methods and data than the previously conducted corridor studies. TAC members noted that Gordley Design Group is involved in the Regional Transportation Authority effort in Pima County and suggested that effort be coordinated with Southeast Arizona RTP activities.

TAC members asked about specifics of the SE RTP process such as whether it would

include maintenance costs. The study team noted that ADOT will address all aspects of transportation, including modernization, preservation, and maintenance. However, detailed maintenance budgeting for current year will not be addressed by the RTP, only longer-range planning considerations. ADOT has an existing asset management plan and is developing level of service based maintenance budgeting tools, but they are not directly part of the RTP. TAC members asked if future vehicles would be considered in the RTP, and if the size of vehicles would be considered. The study team explained that freight traffic would be considered, but that ADOT has examined issues of technology and related concerns through the Arizona long range plan (MoveAZ) and will continue to do so in the future.

The issue of hazardous materials routes and evacuation routes was raised by TAC members. The group asked if evacuation routes would be taken into consideration because of the quantity of hazardous materials traveling on the railroads. Sierra Vista was mentioned as not having a hazardous materials route, but needing to have those routes identified. Access to the airports was another issue that the group wanted to be considered. The study team explained that talking to the TAC and stakeholders will help identify important issues such as evacuation routes and routes to airports.

TAC members asked about the relationship between the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Transportation Authority and the Southeast Arizona RTP. The study team noted that PAG is a contributor to the study and that potential improvements to the state system will be identified from several sources. The TAC also observed that the map of programmed improvements shows many improvements near Pima County and along I-19, and relatively few in Cochise County. The study team explained this RTP will help to balance the map by providing objective information about the need for future projects.

The needs of the Nogales Port Authority were raised by TAC members. The study team explained that railroad improvements are under way in Nogales, Sonora, which is bringing a focus to the situation north of the border. Rail traffic will increase with the Ford plant in Hermosillo, and vehicular and pedestrian overpasses are being considered to address traffic problems.

TAC members questioned if the role that the district engineers would have would change under the RTPs. The study team noted that the RTPs are designed to provide improved information and be a tool for both the state and the district engineers. The RTP will be useable at the district level to assess needs and priorities and will provide better information to the district engineers. The RTPs support the planning part of the process where long-range needs are identified. Final selection of future investments will be based on this information, as well as more detailed studies of particular projects, information from ADOT's management systems (such as the Pavement Management System), and local knowledge of the district engineers.

TAC members suggested a wide range of groups to target in the stakeholder outreach efforts. Including:

- School boards;
- School districts;
- Military commanders ;

- Fire departments;
- Police departments;
- Ambulance companies and hospitals;
- Fresh Produce Association of the Americas;
- Nogales Port Authority;
- Friends of the Santa Cruz River;
- Tubac Citizens Council;
- Business people;
- Customs brokers;
- Customs service in Nogales, Sonora;
- Developers;
- Citizen groups;
- Regional and state traffic engineers;
- Sierra Vista Visitors and Convention Bureau;
- County sheriffs;
- Departments of Public Safety;
- Local Emergency Planning Committees;
- Federal agencies in Nogales;
- Bi-national emergency services agency; and
- Drug Enforcement Agency.

The group discussed the structure of the public meetings. The study team noted that there is a large turnout at public meetings when people are personally affected by a project. ADOT is trying to conduct public outreach early in the process, but the public does not always understand how planning efforts impact them down the road. A comment sheet was suggested to as a means of gathering input from people who may not want to speak. The study team noted comment sheets would be used, and all correspondence would become part of the public record.

The group discussed how the public meetings would be publicized. A press release will be distributed and 2,000 newsletters will be mailed. The press release and resulting media coverage will reach a larger audience than the newsletters.

TAC members made suggestions about the timing and location of the open houses. Open houses were not recommended between November and mid-January because that is family time for many people. The recommendation was made that open houses be held in Benson, Sierra Vista, Bisbee (the Cochise County seat) or Douglas to ensure the RTP is beneficial for Southeast Arizona. The study team replied that one meeting would be held in Pima County, one in Santa Cruz County, and two in Cochise County.

Mr. Decker noted the next TAC meeting would be held in late September, before the

open houses. Ms. Kresich asked the TAC members to encourage other TAC members to attend the meetings. She highlighted that every incorporated area in Southeast Arizona was invited to attend.

## TAC Members

Name	Organization	Attended
Brian Varney	Town of Sahuarita	No
Ryan Benavides	City of Willcox	No
Carlos DeLaTorre	City of Douglas	No
Victor Gabilondo	Santa Cruz County	Yes
Mark Pugh	San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation	No
Boyd Kraemer	City of Benson	No
Bill Harmon	ADOT Safford District	No
Reza Karimvand	ADOT Tucson District	No
Cherie Campbell	PAG	No
Rich Gaar	SEAGO	Eugene Weeks
Gary Oaks	City of Tucson	Yes
John Bernal	Pima County	Yes
Obi Chukuka	Cochise County	Yes
Jennifer Thornton	City of Sierra Vista	Yes
Barbara Johnson	City of Nogales	Yes
Randy Heiss	Town of Patagonia	No

### Additional Attendees:

Paul David, ADOT Safford District  
Dee Crumbacher, ADOT Baja Regional Traffic Engineering  
Barbara Hauser, ADOT Baja Regional Traffic Engineering  
Ron Casper, ADOT Safford District  
Victor Gabilondo, Santa Cruz County

### Team Members in Attendance:

Dianne Kresich, ADOT Transportation Planning Division  
Steve Decker, Cambridge Systematics  
Hugh Louch, Cambridge Systematics  
Dave Perkins, Kimley-Horn and Associates  
Mary Rodin, Kimley-Horn and Associates  
Susanna Cañizo, Gordley Design Group